

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Advisory Action dated February 2, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the current application. Claims 18-33 are withdrawn.

Applicants amend claims 1 and 6. The cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the invention recited in amended claims 1 and 6.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is hereby solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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